

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02531 071543Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 EUR-12 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
IO-13 MCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ARA-10 COME-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /133 W
-----097318 071547Z /46

P 071515Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8630
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2531

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, ET, KE, SO
SUBJECT: KENYA AMBASSADOR JOINS ETHIOPIAN WARNINGS ON
SOMALI ARMS DEAL

REF: (A) STATE 143756 (B) ADDIS ABABA 2494

SUMMARY: KENYA AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA HAS AGAIN URGED US NOT
SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA, PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIS OWN COUNTRY'S
INTERESTS BUT PROBABLY ALSO AT BEHEST OF ETHIOPIANS WHO BE-
LIEVE KENYANS HAVE MORE INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN DECISION MAKING
THAN THEY. HE FURTHER BELIEVES US SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
PRESENT ETHIOPIAN DIFFICULTIES WITH CUBANS TO PURSUE BETTER
RELATIONS AND THAT ARMS SUPPLY CAN HAVE ONLY OPPOSITE EFFECT.
END SUMMARY.

1. KENYA AMBASSADOR F.K. NGANATHA MADE STRONG PLEA TO ME AGAINST
ANY US MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA DURING 45-
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MINUTE RIDE IN HIS CAR TO DEBRA ZEIT WHERE DONOR COUNTRY
REPRESENTATIVES WERE INVITED TO VISIT ILCA RESEARCH STATION
(INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER FOR AFRICA). HE USED ALL THE
POINTS WHICH PMGSE FOREIGN MINISTER FELLEKE HAD MADE TO DAS
HARROP IN NEW YORK ON JUNE 2 (REFTEL A) AND BERHANE DERESSA
TO ME ON JUNE 5 (REFTEL B). HE THEN COMMENTED BITTERLY THAT US
INTERESTS IN KENYA MAY NOT COUNT FOR MUCH BUT THAT THEY WOULD

NECESSARILY BE AFFECTED BY ANY DECISION TO ARM THE COUNTRY WHICH PRESENTS ACTIVE MILITARY THREAT TO KENYA. HE FEELS THREAT IS EVEN STRONGER NOW THAT SIAD HAS LEARNED THAT HE CANNOT HOPE TO TAKE OGADEN AWAY FROM ETHIOPIA.

2. I ATTEMPTED TO CONVINCE NGANATHA THAT WE WOULD CAREFULLY MONITOR SIAD'S ADHERENCE TO HIS PROMISE NOT TO USE FORCE OUTSIDE HIS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TERRITORY AND THAT DECISION TO SUPPLY DEFENSIVE ARMS HAD NOT BEEN REACHED. IN RESPONSE TO MY REMARK THAT HIS OWN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD NOT MADE STRONG PROTEST TO HARROP AND AMBASSADOR LEMELLE OVER FORTHCOMING MILITARY SURVEY MISSION, NGANATHA RETORTED THAT KENYA HAD MADE ITS CASE DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT CARTER DURING VP MOI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THAT IT SHOULDN'T HAVE TO KEEP REPEATING ITS POSITION. I SAID USG WANTS TO KEEP DIALOGUE OPEN WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES SUCH AS KENYA AND DIPLOMATS ARE OFTEN CALLED UPON TO REPEAT THEIR POINTS, TO WHICH HE AGREED.

3. LATER AT RESEARCH STATION OUT OF HEARING DISTANCE OF HIS DRIVER, NGANATHA ASKED, "DOESN'T US SEE RECENT SIGNS THAT ETHIOPIA IS HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH CUBANS? (HE THEN REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO NEGEDE GOBEZIE CASE AND PLIGHT OF CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA.) WHY SET EVERYTHING BACK AGAIN BY HELPING SOMALIA? ETHIOPIA'S MILITARY LEADERS ARE NOT EVEN AS COMMUNIST AS SIAD BARRE."

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4. WITH MY THANKS FOR HIS COMMENTS AND PROMISE TO REPORT THEM TO WASHINGTON, NGANATHA SEEMED SATISFIED FOR THE MOMENT. ALTHOUGH HIS VIEWS ARE THOSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND HIS OWN PERSONALLY, I HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE ETHIOPIANS HAVE DECIDED TO USE KENYAN ENTREE TO US, MUCH AS WE HAVE WITH THEM. THIS EMBASSY AS WELL AS KENYAN AMBASSADOR SHARE FELLEKE'S VIEWS THAT CLOSER US-SOMALI ARMS RELATIONSHIP IS BOUND TO ENDANGER OR CAUSE DETERIORATION IN ETHIO-US RELATIONS. THIS MAY, OF COURSE, BE THE PRICE WE HAVE TO PAY FOR PROTECTION OF MORE IMPORTANT INTERESTS ELSEWHERE.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS02531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0011
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780689/aaaacxvs.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f535e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 143756, 78 ADDIS ABABA 2494
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2462835
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KENYA AMBASSADOR JOINS ETHIOPIAN WARNINGS ON SOMALI ARMS DEAL
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, ET, KE, SO, (NGANATHA, FK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f535e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014